

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM H. GRAY III

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a colleague, a leader, a statesman, and a humanitarian, but most of all I rise to pay tribute to my friend, Bill Gray, who passed away last week.

Bill Gray and I served together in the House of Representatives during a time that was much different than the world we see today. From his early days in Congress, Bill Gray sought to aid and unify an extremely diverse caucus. This collaborative work ethic, along with a comprehensive understanding of the congressional budget process, helped him earn the respect of his colleagues. Bill Gray rose through the ranks to become the first African American to chair the House Budget Committee. Later, he would serve as chair of the House Democratic Caucus and go on to become the House majority whip, the first African American to do so in each position, and at that time, the highest ranking African American in congressional history.

From his first day in Congress, through his rise to leadership, Bill Gray fought for the people of Philadelphia as a tremendous advocate for fairness, equity, and democracy. Bill was willing to compromise to get to a balanced budget because he knew it was good for the entire country, both the rich and the poor. He once said, "A balanced budget is good for the country, the affluent and poor alike. I seek a budget that doesn't sacrifice programs for the poor and minorities, one that is fair and equitable." Gray's advocacy for fairness was also evident at the international level, as he was an early leader in the drive to end U.S. investment in the apartheid government of South Africa.

Bill Gray's commitment to humanity and public service did not begin or end with his time in Congress. Prior to serving in the House of Representatives, Bill was pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in North Philadelphia and still ministered to his congregation while serving in Washington. After retiring from Congress, he served as president of the United Negro College Fund, and was later appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Special Envoy to Haiti.

Despite all of Bill Gray's historic achievements, he still managed to remember his friends. A few years ago, Bill and his son, Justin, visited my

home State of Nevada. The people he met in Las Vegas knew all too well of his service to this Nation and, even more, they just appreciated him for coming to visit our town. I appreciated him, too.

I will always remember Bill Gray, not only as a trailblazer or public servant, but as my friend. My thoughts are with his family and I hope fond memories offer comfort during this time of grief.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CALIFORNIA CASUALTIES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to 21 servicemembers from California or based in California who have died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since I last entered names into the RECORD on September 11, 2012. This brings to 402 the number of servicemembers either from California or based in California who have been killed while serving our country in Afghanistan. This represents 18 percent of all U.S. deaths in Afghanistan:

CS2 Milton W. Brown, 28, of Dallas, TX, died August 4, 2012, from a non-combat related incident in Rota, Spain. Culinary Specialist Second Class Brown was assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 137, Lemoore, CA;

Sgt Camella M. Steedley, 31, of San Diego, CA, died October 3, 2012, while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Steedley was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA;

SGT Thomas R. Macpherson, 26, of Long Beach, CA, died October 12, 2012, in Andar District, Afghanistan, from small arms fire while on patrol during combat operations. Sergeant Macpherson was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA;

SGT Clinton K. Ruiz, 22, of Murrieta, CA, died October 25, 2012, of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked by small arms fire in Khas Uruzgan, Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Ruiz was assigned to the 9th Military Information Support Battalion (Airborne), 8th Military Information Support Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC;

SPC Daniel L. Carlson, 21, of Running Springs, CA, died November 9, 2012, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Specialist Carlson was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Wheeler Army Airfield, HI;

SSG Kenneth W. Bennett, 26, of Glendora, CA, died November 10, 2012, in Sperwan Gar, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained when he encountered an improvised explosive device during combat operations. Staff Sergeant Bennett was assigned to the 53rd Ordnance Company (EOD), 3rd Ordnance Bat-

talion (EOD), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA;

PO1 Class Kevin R. Ebbert, 32, of Arcata, CA, died November 24, 2012, while supporting stability operations in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer First Class Ebbert was assigned to an east coast-based Naval Special Warfare unit in Virginia Beach, VA;

Sgt Michael J. Guillory, 28, of Pearl River, LA, died December 14, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Guillory was assigned to 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, Camp Pendleton, CA;

SSgt Jonathan D. Davis, 34, of Kayenta, AZ, died February 22 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Davis was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 32nd Georgian Liaison Team, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA;

CPO Christian Michael Pike, 31, of Peoria, AZ, died March 13 in Landstuhl, Germany, as a result of combat-related injuries sustained on March 10 while conducting stability operations in Maiwand District, Afghanistan. Chief Petty Officer Pike was assigned to a west coast-based Naval Special Warfare unit;

SFC James F. Grissom, 31, of Hayward, CA, died March 21 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, of wounds suffered from small arms fire March 18 in Paktika Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant First Class Grissom was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA;

SGT Deffin M. Santos Jr., 24, of San Jose, CA, died April 6 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit in Zabul, Afghanistan with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. Sergeant Santos was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA;

Capt Reid K. Nishizuka, 30, of Kailua, HI, died April 27 near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft. Captain Nishizuka was assigned to the 427th Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, CA;

SSgt Richard A. Dickson, 24, of Rancho Cordova, CA, died April 27 near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft. Staff Sergeant Dickson was assigned to the 306th Intelligence Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, CA;

SPC Trinidad Santiago Jr., 25, of San Diego, CA, died May 2 in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. Specialist Santiago was assigned to 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO;

Capt Victoria A. Pinckney, 27, of Palmdale, CA, died May 3 near Chon-Aryk, Kyrgyzstan, in the crash of a